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issue of the struggle, there was in the policy of the monarchy no sentiment whatever. Everything was done by deliberate calculation. But, on the other hand, it is not doubtful that the sympathetic attitude of the French nation was an element in that calculation which cannot justly be overlooked.

In the use of authorities Mr. Perkins has displayed intelligence, and has indicated his sources with precision. Strictly original research was not necessary for his purpose. Doniol, Wharton, Loménie, and Durand had rendered accessible the most important contents of the archives, and the period is rich in personal letters, memoirs, and biographies.

Mr. Perkins's enduring title to a place among historians will rest chiefly upon his sincere love of truth, his diligence in seeking it, his sound judgment of men and policies, his lucid style, and his artistic sense of fitness and proportion. His early ambition was to be a man of letters, and in this he was easily successful.

It is due to him as a fellow craftsman that there should be placed on record in this REVIEW some mention of his great merits as a patriotic citizen and as a public officer. His personal purity in politics and his devotion to the public interest were conspicuous. As a representative in Congress through several terms he rose to be chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, a position which he filled with distinguished ability. It was the expressed intention of the President to appoint him to a high diplomatic post, which he would have adorned. His death was a loss to the nation as well as to historical literature, but he had already won a secure place among scholars in statesmanship.

DAVID J. HILL.

The Origin and Growth of the American Constitution: an Historical Treatise. By HANNIS TAYLOR, Hon. LL.D. of the Universities of Edinburgh and Dublin. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. xlii, 676.)

AFTER thirty years of study of the origin and development of the English and American constitutions, Mr. Taylor considers himself amply rewarded in having discovered a "priceless document" that "explains for the first time the real history of the invention of that marvellous system of government . . . given to the world by the Federal Convention" in 1787. The document in question is Pelatiah Webster's *Dissertation on the Political Union and Constitution of the Thirteen United States of North America*, published in 1783. Of this it is only necessary to say that it has always been known to students of the subject, who have not been inclined to Mr. Taylor's view of its importance but who, without disparaging Webster's originality and power of thought, have generally believed that the American Constitution would have taken its present form if the pamphlet in question had never been written, or, indeed, if Webster himself had never lived.

This obsession of the author, that Pelatiah Webster is to be given all the credit for "the great discovery in modern political science" embodied in the Constitution of the United States, dominates this whole portion of the work. It is dragged in at every conceivable opportunity, and sometimes when there is no opportunity at all. All sense of proportion is lost, for everything is subordinated to the development of this one idea. The author admits (pp. vii and 16) with regard to the Webster pamphlet that "so far as this book is concerned, it is a mere episode", but of the 200 pages devoted to the origin of the American Constitution, over one-fifth directly, and many more indirectly are given up to showing its importance.

The author's belief that "despite the long-standing popular misconception to the contrary, no deliberative body ever had its work so cut out and arranged beforehand as the Federal Convention of 1787" (p. 178), has led him among many other misconceptions and errors to accept the spurious Pinckney Plan as genuine and as the basis of the draft of the Committee of Detail. The carelessness and bias which vitiate his treatment of the subject are well illustrated by a single statement that must astonish the managing editor of the *REVIEW*: "Professor Jameson and ex-Chief Justice Nott have, in a luminous and convincing way, demonstrated the genuineness of the copy of that all-important plan furnished by Pinckney to the Secretary of State in 1818" (p. 9).

Such a mishandling of the subject destroys, of course, much of the value that this part of the work might otherwise possess. Mr. Taylor has previously evinced his ability to write readable and popular books upon rather abstruse subjects, but his insistent harping upon one idea, and a mistaken one at that, is almost certain seriously to interfere with the popularity of his work in the present instance.

The remainder of the work, upon the development of the Constitution, is irregular in character as it is in treatment. An excellent chapter (viii.) on "The First Twelve Articles of Amendment" is followed by one of forty pages on "African Slavery and Its Consequences", while a single chapter of forty-five pages is allotted to "Sixty-one Years of Constitutional Growth (1804-1865)". Chapter xi., on "The Civil War Amendments", properly devotes a large proportion of its space to the Fourteenth Amendment but without adequately developing the scope that has been given to it by judicial interpretation. A short chapter on "Our Colonial System" is followed by one of the longest and of most immediate interest in the book, upon "Inter-state Commerce, Trusts and Monopolies", which would have been rendered more valuable if it could have included the recent decisions of the Supreme Court. A brief chapter, "The Outcome of Our Growth", concludes the text.

A voluminous appendix of 200 pages in smaller type is marked by the faults and virtues of the main work. Twenty documents are included, beginning with the Articles of the New England Confederation of 1643, and ending with the Constitution of the United States, with references to judicial decisions, to date. The inclusion of most of the

items is explainable, if not defensible, but why the Declaration of the Stamp Act Congress, the Declaratory Act of Parliament of 1766, the Mecklenburg Declarations, both spurious and authentic, and the Virginia Bill of Rights of 1776 should be selected, to the exclusion of documents really vital to the argument, it is hard to understand.

An excellent index completes the volume.

MAX FARRAND.

The Letters of Richard Henry Lee. Collected and edited by JAMES CURTIS BALLAGH, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of American History in the Johns Hopkins University. Volume I, 1762-1778. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. xxvii, 467.)

THIS excellent edition of the letters of Richard Henry Lee is disappointing in no particular. The interest, the value, the freshness, and the significance are all that such a publication would lead one to expect. Lee was always to the forefront in the revolutionary advance. It was he who drafted the "Articles of Association by the Citizens of Westmoreland", binding themselves "at every hazard, and paying no regard to danger or death" to prevent the execution of the Stamp Act. In July of 1768, he was urging the creation of committees of correspondence, and among the first he congratulated Dickinson and Samuel Adams. April 1, 1776, he was urging independence, and within three weeks pleaded for foreign embassies. He was one of the first on hand with ideas for new state governments and in urging a confederation. In fact he was always ready with vague, general plans for correcting the times that were "out of joint", but rarely with specific devices. True patriot he was, ready to work himself blind and sick for the cause; he was not cool and calm and logical enough to be a great statesman. He became excited and worked madly on Congressional committees until he "panted for retirement from the most distressing pressure of business I ever had conception of". As a member of the war committee Lee writes letters that give much light on the military plans of Congress, Washington's relations with that body, and its difficulties in getting military supplies. The part which necessary inoculation against smallpox played in delaying the organization of armies in America is graphically shown in Lee's letters. Radical as he was he saw clearly the incongruity of democracy and military efficiency. He scolded constantly about the folly of the militia system, and urged the formation of regular armies. His plea for a naval force is insistent, and his letters furnish much detail about the British blockade of the coast, especially of Maryland and Virginia. America was like an island, he declared, and could not hope for decisive victory while Britannia "ruled the waves". As early as July 22, 1777, he foresaw Burgoyne's defeat or capture, because at his distance from the sea no naval rescue was possible. "Curse their canvas wings", he cried. After the French alliance and the coming of the French fleet, he was sure of ultimate success.